L&G MATTER NO. _387795_

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October 3, 2001

TO: Hosain T. Alam, Primary Examiner

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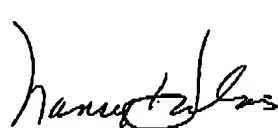FROM: Curtis A. Vock, Esq.   NO. OF PAGES 21
                                          (Including Cover Sheet)

Re: Office Action dated 8/21/01
       Patent Application Serial No. 08/920,044
       Title: System and Methods for Remotely Accessing a Selected Group of Items of
       Interest from a Database

Dear Examiner Alam:

Enclosed is a draft response for your discussion with Civix-DDI, LLC on October
17, 2001. The Amendment is intended to place the application in condition for
allowance, or in better condition for appeal on a continuing application, depending upon
that meeting.

Nancy Halas
Assistant to Curtis Vock

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	W. Lincoln Bouve et al.
Application No.	08/920,044
Filed	August 28, 1997
Title	SYSTEM AND METHODS FOR REMOTELY ACCESSING A SELECTED GROUP OF ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM A DATABASE
Group./A.U.	2172
Examiner	Hosain T. Alam
Docket No.	387795

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE and AMENDMENT

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action of August 21, 2001, Applicants provide the

following amendments and remarks. For the Examiner's convenience, each of the

pending claims is provided herewith.

Amendments to the Claims

38.   A method for locating items of interest relative to a first location, comprising the

steps of:

selecting the first location at a port situated at a second location; selecting, at the port, a

category associated with the items of interest; communicating the first location and the

category to a database that is connected, datawise, to the port and that is not located at the

second location; and receiving, at the port, information defining geographic locations of

the items of interest.

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39.   A method according to claim 38, further comprising the step of formatting the information into a map for display to a user of the port, the map showing the items of interest.

40.   A method according to claim 39, wherein the step of communicating the <u>first</u> location and the category to the database further comprises the step of communicating a geographic vicinity to the database, the vicinity defining a geographic extent for which items of interest are mapped relative to the first location, and wherein the step of formatting the information into a map comprises the step of displaying the vicinity and the items of interest within the vicinity.

41.   A method according to claim 40, further comprising the steps of selecting, at the port, a shape of the geographic extent and of displaying the map in the specified shape.

42.   A method according to claim 38, wherein the step of communicating the first location and the category comprises the step of generating a request signal to the database.

43.   A method according to claim 38, wherein the step of communicating the <u>first</u> location and the category comprises the step of utilizing a communication link selected from the group consisting of: a telephone link, a satellite link, a radio-frequency link, an internet link, a fiber-optic link, a coaxial cable link, a cellular network, and a microwave link.

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44.   A method according to claim 38, further comprising the step of generating, at the database, the information, the step of generating comprising utilizing one of a personal computer, a mainframe, a work-station, a mini-computer, and a digital data processor.

45.   A method according to claim 38, wherein the step of communicating the first location and the category to the database further comprises the step of communicating a geographic vicinity to the database, the vicinity specifying a geographic extent for which items of interest are mapped relative to the location.

46.   A method according to claim 45, wherein the step of receiving comprises the step of utilizing one of the following communication links: a television, a telephone, a facsimile, an audible speaker, and a display.

47.   A method according to claim 38, wherein the steps of selecting comprises utilizing a user interface selected from the group of television interface, facsimile interface, keyboard, mouse and computer interface.

48.   A method according to claim 38, further comprising the step of generating the information at the database, the information including street and landmark information.

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49.   A method according to claim 38, wherein the step of selecting the first location comprises the step of selecting the second location defined by a GPS receiver substantially located with the port.

50.   A method according to claim 38, further comprising the step of requesting, at the port, additional detail about at least one of the items of interest, and further comprising the step of transmitting, from the database, the additional detail to the port.

51.   A method according to claim 50, wherein the step of transmitting additional detail comprises transmitting multimedia information including at least one of video, prerecorded music, advertising information, and digital pictures.

52.   A method according to claim 38, further comprising the step of communicating advertising information to the port in response to the database receiving the category.

53.   A method according to claim 38, further comprising the step of arranging the information hierarchically within the database.

54.   A method according to claim 38, further comprising the steps of selecting one or more additional categories at the port, communicating the additional categories to the database, and receiving, at the port, additional information defining geographic locations of items of interest in the additional categories.

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55.   A method according to claim 38, wherein the step of selecting the first location comprises the step of utilizing the second location of the port.

56.   A method according to claim 38, further comprising the step of updating the database, from time to time, so as to maintain current location information within the database.

57.   A method according to claim 38, further comprising the step of displaying the information on a display at the port, the display being selected from one of the following: CRT, LCD, LED array, and mixtures thereof.

58.   A method according to claim 38, wherein the step of receiving the information comprises the step of utilizing one of a facsimile, a printer, and a voice communication synthesizer.

59.   A method according to claim 38, further comprising the step of providing, at the port, a menu of categories wherein a user of the port can select the category.

60.   A method according to claim 38, further comprising the step of providing, at the port, a menu of locations wherein a user of the port can select the second location.

61.   A method according to claim 60, further comprising the step of providing the second location in a first mode, and of providing the first location in a second mode corresponding to a remote location relative to the user.

62.   A method according to claim 38, further comprising the step of displaying the information within a map of at least a portion of one of the following: a country, a state, and a city.

63.   A method according to claim 38, further comprising the step of prompting a user at the port for additional information in response to a category request that identifies a number of the items of interest.

64.   A method according to claim 38, wherein the step of selecting the category comprises utilizing a voice generation system to prompt a user's entry of the category into the port.

65.   A method according to claim 38, wherein the step of selecting the first location comprises utilizing a voice generation system to prompt a user's entry of the first location into the port.

66.   A method according to claim 38, wherein the step of receiving comprises utilizing a voice generation system to audibly describe items of interest to a user of the port.

67.   A method according to claim 38, further comprising the step of updating the database from the port so as to maintain current information within the database.

68.   Cancel.

69.   Cancel.

70.   Database methodology for providing geo-defined information to a user remotely connected to a database, comprising the steps of:

receiving, at the database, information including a category of items of interest and a location;

determining items of interest that are within the category and that are located in the vicinity of the location;

transmitting identifying information about the items of information to the user, the identifying information specifying the items of interest with a name and a geographic location relative to the location.

71.   Database methodology according to claim 70, further comprising the steps of displaying the vicinity as a map and displaying the identifying information on the map.

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72.   Database methodology according to claim 70, further comprising the step of
transmitting the category and the location through a port connected to the database, the
port having a user interface which permits entry of the location and the category by the
user.

73.   Cancel.

74.   Database methodology according to claim 73, wherein the step of receiving
comprises the step of utilizing a session manager for responding to requests at the
database and for forwarding data requests and other information to servers connected
with the database.

75.   A method of mapping items of interest relative to a geo-defined location,
comprising the steps of:

providing a map of a starting vicinity on a display for [the]a user, the display being
connected for communication with a database, the starting vicinity being selected from
the group consisting essentially of a country, a state, and a city; selecting, at the display
and for communication to the database, a reduced vicinity within the starting vicinity, the
reduced vicinity having a geographic extent that is less than the starting vicinity; and
providing a map of the reduced vicinity at the display, the map defining locations of the
items of interest within the reduced vicinity.

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76.   A method according to claim 75, wherein the step of selecting a reduced vicinity comprises the step of utilizing a computer mouse to point and click on a region within the starting vicinity, the region being representative of the reduced vicinity.

77.   A method according to claim 75, further comprising the steps of selecting, at the display and for communication to the database, at least one additional vicinity within the reduced vicinity, and of providing an additional map defining relative positions of the items of interest within the additional vicinity, the additional vicinity having a geographic extent that is less than the geographic extent of the reduced vicinity.

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The above clarifying amendments further clarify the invention, attend to the remarks of the pending office action, or are made to place the application in better form for appeal or for filing of a continuing application. Claims 68-69 and 73 are cancelled. With the above amendments, claims 38-67, 70-72, 74-77 are pending in the application. No new matter was introduced with these amendments.

Substantive Rejections

Claims 38-45, 47-50, 53-55, 59-63 and 70-72 stand rejected as being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102 by EP 0508787A2 ("Nobe"). Respectfully we disagree. Claims 38-66 are amended to clearly claim the invention of "selecting" both a category and a "first" location at a port situated at a second location; the database is also not co-located with the port. In addition, the term "specifying" was changed to "selecting" to clearly show that the invention of claims 38-66 utilize user input and selection. Nobe, on the other hand, has no user inputs to "select" a location for the map; it also does not provide for "selecting" a category. Accordingly, Applicants argue that these claims patentably distinguish over Nobe; this is also consistent with the Examiner's comments on page 5.

The Examiner also argues that since Nobe discusses service facilities (restaurants, hotels, or the like) then Applicant's characterization that Nobe selects only one category has no proper basis. But a careful reading (with emphasis) of the Nobe abstract teaches something quite different:

An **on-board** navigation apparatus in which **one** of a plurality of **service facilities** displayed on a display is designated by an operator input, the position coordinate data corresponding to the **designated service facility** is registered as a **user position** into a memory (9), and when the map is displayed on the display (17), **the position coordinate data** which has been **user position registered** and the corresponding map data is read out

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from the memory (9) and mixed with the map data such that a **predetermined pattern** can be displayed at the position on the map indicated by the position coordinate data. Consequently, the **positions** of the **services facilities** **such as** restaurants, hotels, or the like, which are necessary for each user can be easily confirmed on the displayed map.

Applicants thus argue that Nobe does not permit a **user** selection of **a** category -- i.e., any category. Applicants did not, and do not, argue or even characterize that Nobe selects only one category. In fact, the Nobe disclosure only provides for (abstract, Col. 2 (Lines 1-5, Lines 10 - 13) display of a plurality of services facilities (as a "single category"), **not a plurality of categories, from which the user can select.**

Claims 46, 51-52, 56-58, 64-68 stand rejected as being obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103 in view of Nobe. Respectfully we disagree. As for claims 46, 51-52, 56-58, 64-68 the above remarks and amendments illustrate why Nobe does not anticipate claim 38, from which these claims depend. For the same reasons, Nobe does not teach or suggest these claims.

Claims 74-77 are not rejected by the Examiner. Applicants believe this is an oversight -- but nonetheless argue that claims 74-77 similarly benefit by arguments above and patentably distinguish over the prior art.

No fees are deemed necessary with this response. If fees are due in connection with this response, the Examiner is authorized to charge deposit account 12-0600.

Respectfully submitted,
LATHROP & GAGE, L.C.

Date: _____   By _____

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8

I hereby certify that, on the date shown below, this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service in an envelope addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 with sufficient postage:

_____   _____
                                                    Date

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Amendments to the Claims

38.   (Three Times Amended)   A method for locating items of interest relative to a [geo-defined]first location, comprising the steps of:

[specifying]selecting the [geo-defined]first location at a port situated at a second location; [specifying]selecting, at the port, a category associated with the items of interest [at the port]; communicating the first location and the category to a database that is connected, datawise, to the port and that is not located at the second location; and receiving, at the port, information defining geographic [coordinates]locations of the items of interest.

39.   (Amended)   A method according to claim 38, further comprising the step of formatting the information into a map for display to a user of the port, the map showing the items of interest [relative to the location].

40.   (Amended)   A method according to claim 39, wherein the step of communicating the first location and the category to the database further comprises the step of communicating a geographic vicinity to the database, the vicinity [specifying]defining a geographic extent for which items of interest are mapped relative to the first location, and wherein the step of formatting the information into a map comprises the step of displaying the vicinity and the items of interest within the vicinity.

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41.   (Amended)   A method according to claim 40, further comprising the steps of [specifying]selecting, at the port, a shape of the geographic extent and of displaying the map in the specified shape.

42.   (Amended)   A method according to claim 38, wherein the step of communicating the first location and the category comprises the step of generating a request signal to the database.

43.   (Amended)   A method according to claim 38, wherein the step of communicating the first location and the category comprises the step of utilizing a communication link selected from the group consisting of: a telephone link, a satellite link, a radio-frequency link, [an infra-red link,]an internet link, [a facsimile link,]a fiber-optic link, a coaxial cable link, a cellular network, and a microwave link[, an interactive TV communication link, an airphone link, a modem link, and a television link].

45.   (Amended)   A method according to claim 38, wherein the step of communicating the first location and the category to the database further comprises the step of communicating a geographic vicinity to the database, the vicinity specifying a geographic extent for which items of interest are mapped relative to the location.

46.   (Amended)   A method according to claim 45, wherein the step of [communicating]receiving comprises the step of utilizing one of the following

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communication links: a television, a telephone, a facsimile, an audible speaker, and a display.

47. (Amended)   A method according to claim 38, wherein the steps of [specifying]selecting comprises utilizing a user interface selected from the group of television interface, facsimile interface, keyboard, mouse and computer interface.

49. (Amended)   A method according to claim 38, wherein the step of [specifying]selecting the first location comprises the step of selecting the second location defined by [utilizing] a GPS receiver [to specify a location of the user of]substantially located with the port.

50. (Amended)   A method according to claim 38, further comprising the step of requesting, at the port, additional detail about at least one of the items of interest, and further comprising the step of transmitting, from the database, the additional detail to the port.

51. (Amended)   A method according to claim [38]50, wherein the step of transmitting additional detail comprises transmitting multimedia information including at least one of video, prerecorded music, advertising information, and digital pictures.

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52.   (Amended)   A method according to claim 38, further comprising the step of communicating advertising information to [users of] the port in response to the database receiving the category.

54.   (Amended)   A method according to claim 38, further comprising the steps of [specifying]selecting one or more additional categories at the port, [of] communicating the additional categories to the database, and receiving, at the port, additional information defining geographic [coordinates]locations of items of interest in the additional categories.

55.   (Amended)   A method according to claim 38, wherein the step of [specifying]selecting the first location comprises the step of utilizing [a current location]the second location of the [user of the] port [as the location].

56.   (Amended)   A method according to claim 38, further comprising the step of updating the database, from time to time, so as to maintain current location information within the database.

57.   (Amended)   A method according to claim 38, further comprising the step of displaying the information on a display [for a user of]at the port, the display being selected from one of the following: CRT, LCD, LED array, and mixtures thereof.

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58.   (Amended)   A method according to claim 38, wherein the step of

[communicating]receiving the information comprises the step of utilizing one of a

facsimile, a printer, and a voice communication synthesizer.

59.   (Amended)   A method according to claim 38, further comprising the step of

providing, at the port, a menu of categories wherein a user of the port can [specify]select

the category.

60.   (Amended)   A method according to claim 38, further comprising the step of

providing, at the port, a menu of locations wherein a user of the port can [specify]select

the second location.

61.   (Amended)   A method according to claim 60, further comprising the step of

providing [a]the second location in a first mode [corresponding to a current location of

the user], and of providing [a]the first location in a second mode corresponding to a

remote location relative to the user.

64.   (Amended)   A method according to claim 38, wherein the step of

[specifying]selecting the category comprises utilizing a voice generation system to

prompt a user's entry of the category into the port.

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65.   (Amended)   A method according to claim 38, wherein the step of [specifying]selecting the [category]first location comprises utilizing a voice generation system to prompt a user's entry of the [category]first location into the port.

66.   (Amended)   A method according to claim 38, wherein the step of receiving comprises utilizing a voice generation system to audibly describe items of interest to a user of the port.

70.   (Twice Amended)   Database methodology for providing geo-defined information to a user remotely connected to a database, comprising the steps of:

receiving, at the database, information including a category of items of interest and [positional coordinates of] a location [defining a vicinity];

determining items of interest that are within the category and that are located [within the vicinity]in the vicinity of the location;

transmitting identifying information about the items of information to the user, the identifying information specifying the items of interest with a name and a geographic location relative to the [positional coordinates]location.

72.   (Amended)   Database methodology according to claim 70, further comprising the step of transmitting the [positional coordinates]category and the location through a

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port connected to the database, the port having a user interface which permits entry of [information]the location and the category by the user.

75.   (Amended)   A method of mapping items of interest relative to a geo-defined location, comprising the steps of:

providing a map of a starting vicinity on a display for [the]a user, the display being connected for communication with a database, the starting vicinity being selected from the group consisting essentially of a country, a state, and a city;

[specifying]selecting, at the display and for communication to the database, a reduced vicinity within the starting vicinity, the reduced vicinity having a geographic extent that is less than the starting vicinity; and

providing a map of the reduced vicinity at the display, the map defining [relative positions]locations of the items of interest within the reduced vicinity.

76.   (Amended)   A method according to claim 75, wherein the step of [specifying]selecting a reduced vicinity comprises the step of utilizing a computer mouse to point and click on a region within the starting vicinity, the region being representative of the reduced vicinity.

77.   (Amended)   A method according to claim 75, further comprising the steps of [specifying]selecting, at the display and for communication to the database, at least one additional vicinity within the reduced vicinity, and of providing an additional map

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defining relative positions of the items of interest within the additional vicinity, the

additional vicinity having a geographic extent that is less than the geographic extent of

the reduced vicinity.